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Monday March 11 1996

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Iceland I 2.20
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46,497

Britain's new civil war
Roundheads vs Cavaliers
G2 with European weather



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Dog days
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Butcher of the Drina bridge

Ed Vulliamy in Sarajevo identifies the leader of a gang of Serbian killers who turned a Bosnian river into blood

BOSNIA'S most celebrated monument — the Drina bridge at Visegrad — made famous by a Nobel Prize-winning novel — was turned into a slaughterhouse by a mass murderer who is identified by the Guardian today.

Unknown to the outside world, and unindicted by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Milan Lukic was the leader of a gang of Serbian killers who unleashed an orgy of violence against Muslims in Visegrad during the first months of the war, in the spring and summer of 1992.

His victims numbered hundreds if not thousands, most of them stabbed and mutilated on the gracious Ottoman bridge, and fired on after being hurled into the river.

During that period, 14,000

Muslims were killed or ousted from the mountain town.

The Bridge on The Drina is the title of a literary masterpiece by Bosnia's greatest author, Ivo Andric, in which the glorious structure is cast as a backdrop and silent witness to Bosnia's history.

Visegrad was also the site for a hitherto unknown Serbian concentration camp for Muslims. Captives were held in two giant hangars at the Uzamnica military barracks, from which busloads of men were taken towards Serbia and never seen again. Some are believed to be working as slaves in a Serbian mine.

Details of the slaughter of Muslims in the Drina valley, which runs through eastern Bosnia, have been largely

hidden for the war's duration.

But in August 1994, a Serbian soldier held prisoner in Muslim Gorazde secretly testified to Milan Lukic's bloodlust. The prisoner was released in an exchange and now cannot be found. But the Guardian has reconstructed the full story of the carnage in Visegrad, and of Lukic's part in it, finding witnesses across Bosnia and Europe.

They describe how he would drive his stolen red Volkswagen Passat ahead of a convoy of other cars and trucks on to the bridge each evening, when the killing would begin.

A witness who lived just above the bridge, Fahida D, said: "We saw them by day or by the city lights, whether

they were killing men, women or children. It took half an hour, sometimes more."

The Guardian has also traced Muslim soldiers whose work it was to haul the corpses out of the water down river from Visegrad. They confirm that infants were among the dead. "We dug the graves and buried 180 people," Jasmin R said. "Some I knew personally, they had been my neighbours."

The Bosnian government calculates that about one in 20 bodies was probably salvaged.

There were other massacre methods. Witnesses testify how Lukic would lock men, women and children inside houses and incinerate them. On two occasions, he and his

gang held up convoys of buses transporting Muslims out of Visegrad, took out the men and executed them.

One witness, Hasena M, watched her mother and sister murdered on the bridge, but escaped with her two daughters before being imprisoned in Uzamnica, a new name to add to the list of concentration camps in Bosnia.

The camp was established in two hangars at the local barracks complex, after the Uzici corps of the Yugoslav army, which had armed and sanctioned the carnage, had left Visegrad. Women and children were kept in one hangar, men in the other. Uzamnica was a forced labour camp, with captives working in local factories, farmyards

and orchards.

Beatings and torture were common, mainly in the male hangar from which, Hasena M said, prisoners could hear screams every night. There was occasional rape in the women's quarters.

Lukic was a regular visitor, joining in the beatings at will. He vowed that "women prisoners will not be killed, only the men".

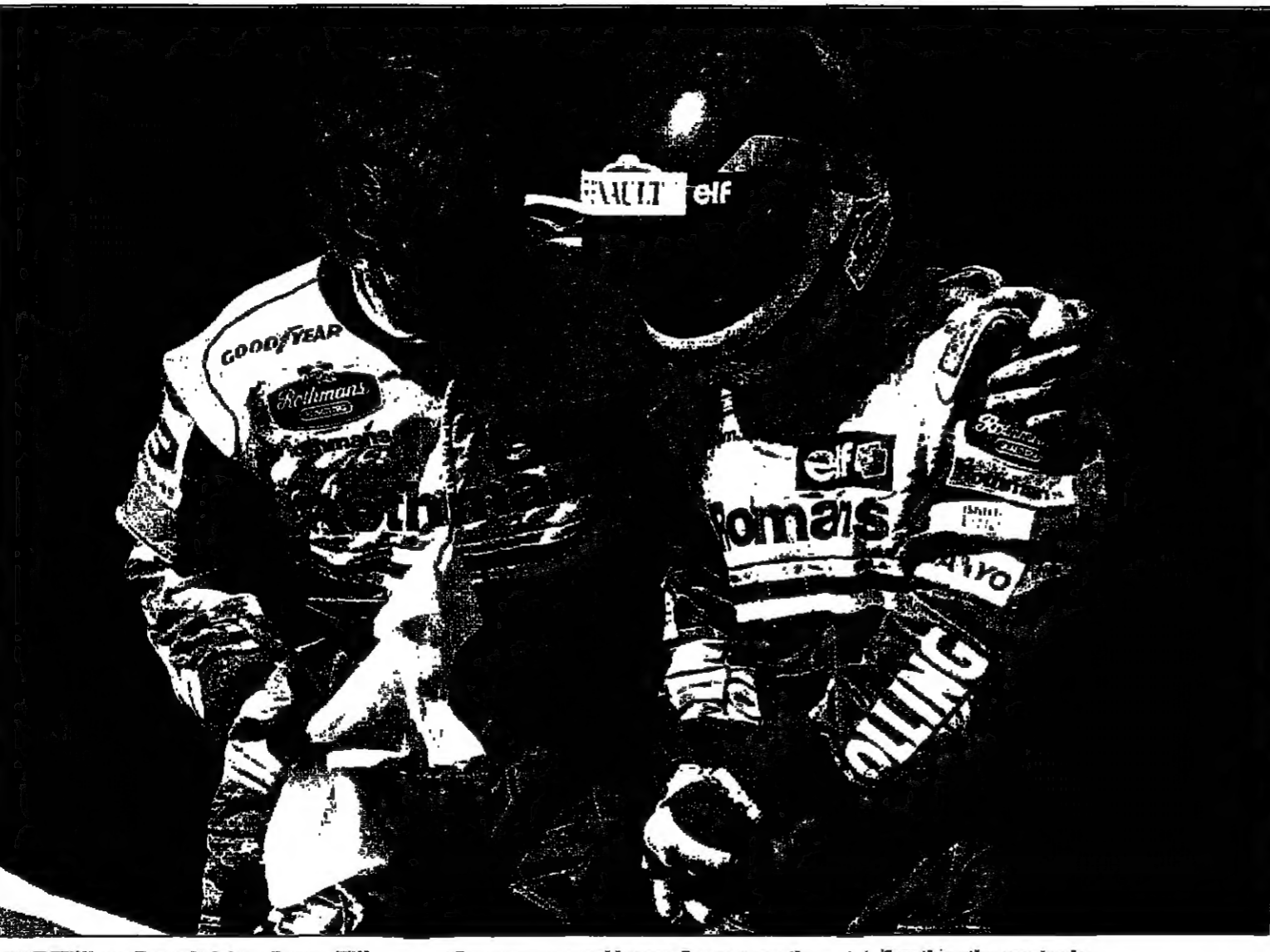
At irregular intervals, male inmates would be bussed away, never to be seen again. Some women prisoners say they were driven in the direction of the Serbian border. Bosnian government officials believe some are being kept as slave workers in a mining complex called Aleksinac, deep within Serbia.

Officials believe the prisoners have been given false Serbian names to foil Red Cross inquiries.

Lukic is now believed to be back in Obrenovac, Serbia, where he worked as a cafe manager. Inquiries after him at the Viski Bar are met with a stony glare charged with menace, and not sensibly challenged.

But there has been one ominous sighting. A Muslim soldier from Zepa, present at the fall of the enclave in 1995, said he saw Lukic patrolling the columns of men as they lined up to surrender. Lukic was shouting: "Anyone from Visegrad step out of the line! Anyone from Visegrad."

Bloody trail, page 7



THE Williams-Renault driver, Damon Hill (left) consoles his new teammate Jacques Villeneuve after riding his luck to victory in yesterday's Australian Grand Prix as the Formula One season got off to a dramatic start in Melbourne.

Only an oil leak prevented Villeneuve, the reigning IndyCar champion, from winning his maiden grand prix, after he led most of the way, while the Englishman Martin Brundle walked away from a car which was in two pieces after a spectacular crash on the race's first lap.

"I am sure you could argue Jacques was the moral winner," admitted Hill after equalling his late father, Graham's, total of 14 wins. "But he knows motor racing. This happens. Jacques decided after getting a message from the pits that the oil pressure was going and he might not finish the race. But people paid to come here and see a motor race and they got one."

The Williams duo delighted the 154,000 Albert Park crowd with a thrilling battle, but only after Hill had benefited from a restart caused by Brundle's accident, having slipped from second

to fourth on the opening lap.

"I made a complete pig's ear of the start," said Hill. Having maintained his position on the restart, the Dublin-based driver still had to be content with the occasional strike at Villeneuve's lead. Villeneuve settled for second — with Eddie Irvine a distant third in his first outing for Ferrari — having fended off every Hill attack until advised to slow down.

PHOTOGRAPH: MARK BAKER
Richard Williams page 12

Howard concedes sentence package will need more jails

Alan Travis and Clare Dyer

AN extensive prison building programme will be needed for Michael Howard's US-style sentencing package, the Home Secretary conceded yesterday.

The scale of the programme — on top of the six prisons already planned at a cost of £380 million — is being fiercely contested by the Treasury and the Home Office.

"If we are to have minimum mandatory sentences for persistent burglars and for traffickers in hard drugs then we will need an increase in prison accommodation," Mr Howard said.

Prison experts have estimated that this proposal alone could add 6,500 inmates to the 58,000 in prison now. This would require 16 more prisons at a cost of £80 million each.

The Prison Service is already taking emergency measures to cope with overcrowding problems triggered by the Home Secretary's "prison works" policy.

Mr Howard refused to discuss the details yesterday but confirmed that an official estimate will be included in a white paper on sentencing to be published soon. Legislation is promised for the autumn but it is clear that the cost need not be met until after the general election.

The Home Secretary confirmed that it was the proposal for minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug traffickers which was most

likely to fill the jails. The plans to introduce "two strikes and you're out" life sentences for repeat rapists and to increase prison numbers to a similar extent.

Mr Howard's admission supported the claim last week by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, that the new sentencing package would be no more than "a bonanza for prison architects".

The constitutional clash between the Home Secretary and the senior judiciary started to take a vicious turn over the weekend with Mr Howard's supporters in the press claiming that judges were "only lawyers in extremely dodgy clothing" and that many had been brought up on the permissive notions of the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr Howard himself was in no mood yesterday to make

concessions to the senior judges or other critics and went as far as to claim that his policy of automatic life sentences for repeat rapists and attempted murderers would spare 40 to 50 victims a year of recently released violent offenders.

Judges with the option to pass a discretionary life sentence on convicted rapists or violent offenders who reoffended had done so in only 10 per cent of cases. "So 90 per cent of those who have committed a second serious violent or sexual offence are released at present, even if everybody knows they are likely to go out and commit a third rape or a third serious wounding or a third robbery."

During an interview on BBC TV's Frost on Sunday, the Home Secretary went on to dismiss the Lord Chief Justice's argument that an auto-

turn to page 3, column 4

Second accident heightens fears on rail safety

Pace of sell-off 'forced through regardless of cost to the public'

Edward Pilkington and Keith Harper

FEARs over the safety of a privatised railway network grew yesterday as details emerged of a further derailment of a freight train at the weekend, while ministers denied claims they were taking risks by forcing the pace of the sell-off.

A freight train carrying up to 1,200 tonnes of liquid polystyrene was derailed near Wakefield early on Saturday, just three hours after the fatal accident near Stafford in which one person died and 22 were injured.

Three carriages of a train travelling from Baglan Bay,



South Wales, to Stalybridge, near Manchester, became derailed at 2am on Saturday as they were being manoeuvred through a marshalling yard. The carriages were put back on the rails in a 12-hour operation believed to have cost about £50,000.

The Wakefield derailment is the second incident to be set against the record of the American-based company, Wisconsin Central Transportation Corporation, or WCTC, since it bought British Rail's freight service two weeks ago. The coincidence of the accident so soon after the Stafford crash is likely to heighten anxieties about safety standards under privatisation, with WCTC's record already

under scrutiny in the United States and New Zealand.

Loadhaul, which operates in the North-east and is one of three privatised freight companies owned by WCTC, in-

sisted there had been no risk of polystyrene leaking from the derailed train. "There was no danger," a spokesman said.

However, there were concerns that the accident occurred close to a river, which could have suffered environmental damage if any of the liquid cargo had been discharged.

The Government faced new allegations, at the weekend that the pace of its rail privatisation programme was threatening safety.

The claims came after confirmation that the Government is accelerating its privatisation plans in a leaked document from Roger Salmon, the rail franchising director.

He has told ministers that all but four of the 25 private passenger operating companies will be running by the end of next February. Two have so far been sold off. These are Great Western Trains and South West Trains, which are now operated by the bus company, Stagecoach.

Labour's transport spokeswoman, Clare Short, said: "The Government is taking risks with our transport system and making contracts to sell the railways regardless of the cost to the taxpayer and travelling public. Tory policy is being driven by the reckless obsession to sell off the network as quickly as possible."

News of the second derailment came as accident investigators sifted through the wreckage of two trains in the Stafford crash late on Friday night. It is understood that investigators have identified the cause of the crash as a fractured axle in a wagon of

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Sketch

Lib Dem leader in cyberspace



Michael White

WITH the evocative but imperfectly typed words "Yes, online and ready to go..." Paddy Ashdown made British political history last night when he became the first party leader in the nation's long history to debate with ordinary voters on the Internet.

sion of the late Stanley Unwin. Conservative MPs, who are already marking down last night's Guardian Live Wire debate as another reason to hate Mr Ashdown, will not be surprised to learn that gays in the army and the Newbury bypass were the most popular topics among the 320 questions submitted. A touch parochial for a global hook-up.

"Given your background where do you stand in respect of gays in the armed forces?" Lee Tomlinson asked the ex-Marine. "One of the best and bravest soldiers I have ever had the privilege to serve with wrote to me 10 years ago telling me he was gay. Some of the finest generals, admirals and soldiers we have had..." replied the ex-Marine.

The next questioner asked if Mr Ashdown was "planning to form an alliance with Tony Blair?" In the old-fashioned steam-driven Commons there would have been a cruel homophobic laugh from the Tory benches. Here, nothing but the gentle sound of Mr Ashdown saying No before realising he'd better give the bog-standard "no deals" line.

Thanks to collaboration with CompuServe, there were 120 questions already tabled for answer. Guardian readers, joining in via the paper's Web site, added 100 more, plus 100 during the session. More than 1,000 people participated.

What about Newbury? Mr Ashdown was asked. He stood by his local Lib Dem MP and the decision to build the bypass. We are "by far the greenest party."

We are constantly told, by Ross Perot and other dodgy characters, that this is the way of the future, the "electronic town meeting". Maybe. But there is, as yet, no substitute for the speed of nuanced political information which voices can provide. There were some glorious misunderstandings.

Review

Two trumps for a busted Lush

Dave Simpson

THE hardest thing in pop is to shake off an album, but Lush have done it twice. Until recently, the Camden foursome were indie rock's Zsa Zsa Gabor, famous for being famous, because of something nobody could quite remember.

must be the source of some sweet revenge, and Lush's forthcoming album, Lovellife, is already being talked of as among the year's best.

The extent of Lush's rehabilitation can be judged by the fact that they managed to appear at the North's exclusive Britpop/Mod club Brighton Beach. They unveiled the deceptively bright pop of their re-emergence, with the chunky riffs and New Wave Duane Eddy swang of 300 and Hypocrite.

How that's changed, but equally nowadays neither Berenyi nor Anderson feel the need to perform for anybody. In a shiny black dress, Berenyi certainly looked the pop star but instead radiated an eerie intensity, offset only by some sly humour between songs. "We're not very Mod, are we?" she chuckled at one point. They're not. But nobody cared as spiky-haired Miki — red hair-framed in equally angry light to match the venom of her words — became the definitive defiant, post-trauma, post-modern girl with a scything, triumphant Ladykillers. The song is a withering put-down of those hideous, vain, manipulative men we all know, and as Lush left the stage to a chorus of cheers, few would deny them a celebratory glass.

Lush play Newcastle tonight, Middlesbrough tomorrow, then on tour until the London Electric Ballroom on April 2

Lifeboat service still tops charity bequests with more than £38m

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MORE money is left in wills to the lifeboat service than to any other charity, a survey showed yesterday. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution still attracts more legacy income than any other.

ties' latest accounts, shows the RNLI received £38.4 million from legacies in 1994. This represented 59 per cent of its income for the year, though the figure was down from £40 million in 1993.

Tories all but paralysed as financier sets tough terms for calling off Referendum Party election threat

Goldsmith turns the screw

Michael White Political Editor

SIR James Goldsmith's terms for calling off his Referendum Party's threat to Tory seats at the next general election are that John Major must promise to convene a Speaker's Conference to decide the question to be asked and to stage the referendum on election day in 1997.

the billionaire financier today makes it plain that a plebiscite on a single European currency alone, which Mr Major is poised to concede, will not satisfy his demands.

sent another holding letter by Danny Finkelstein, head of the Conservative Research Department, just before Mr Major signalled on Thursday that the Cabinet will make up its mind on the referendum in weeks rather than months.

In another unsettling move, hours after Lady Thatcher attacked the debate on Europe's currency and internal relations as a distraction from real global problems, her former lieutenant and party chairman, Lord Parkinson, said on GMTV that cabinet ministers should be allowed to disagree publicly in the referendum campaign, as Labour ministers were in 1975.

Michael Portillo's friends say he might not even fight for the right to campaign on a No vote.

claims to have 400 candidates and plans to stage its party conference in Brighton the week after Mr Major's own pre-election conference in October. It threatens to run challengers in every seat where neither the Labour nor Tory candidate is committed to a referendum.

Spectacular lessons of crowded night sky

FSW1's path



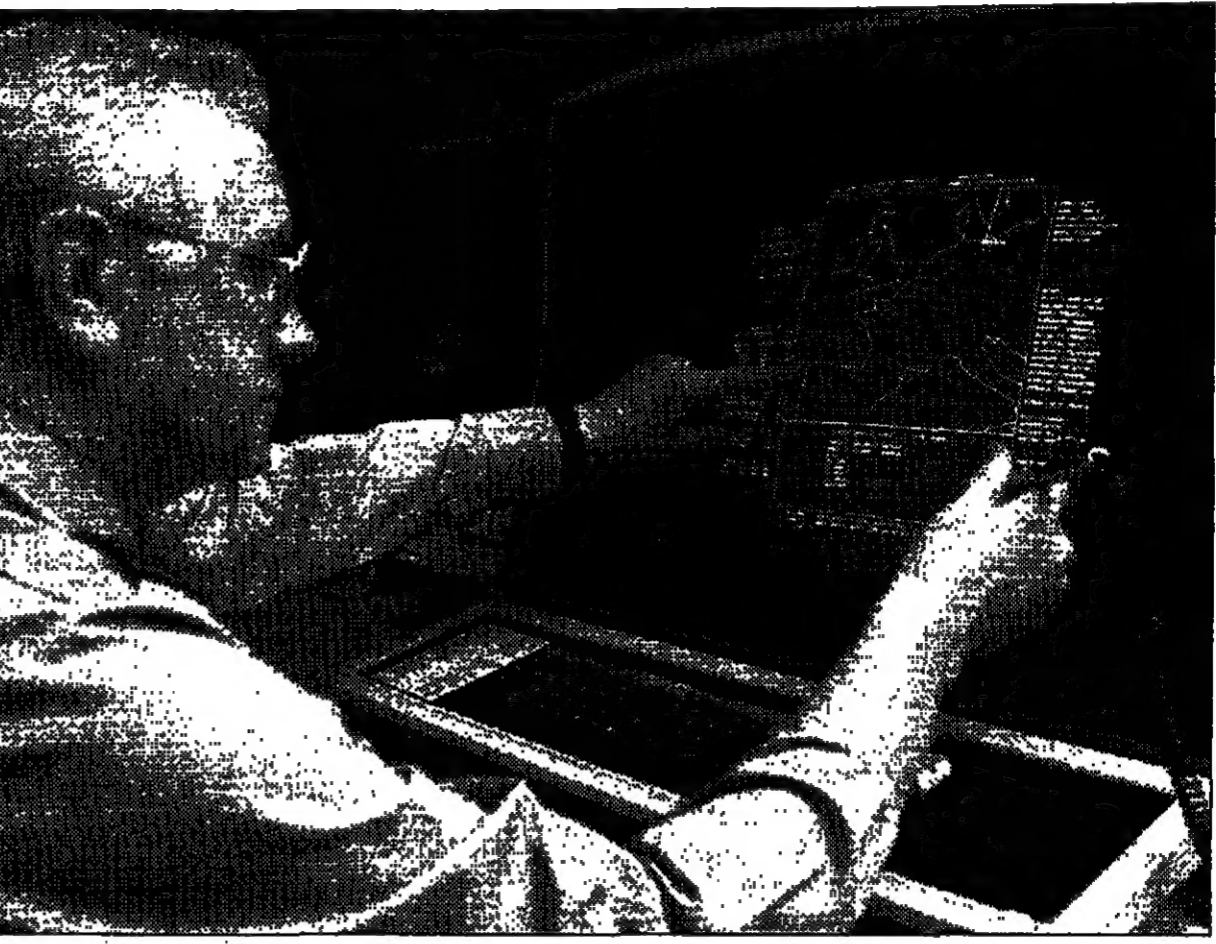
SATELLITE: Oak-tipped junk from China bears message for environment

Tim Radford Science Editor

A ONE-TON Chinese spy satellite poised to plunge to Earth within the next 48 hours could be a messenger of things to come if the United States and Europe follow the advice in Lady Thatcher's speech in Fulton, Missouri.

and North America and many thousands of miles of empty ocean south of the Equator.

At first the Chinese authorities denied it was theirs. Then they admitted responsibility. Cynics in the defence industry point out that under UN rules, satellites that "drop in" must be returned to the original owner.

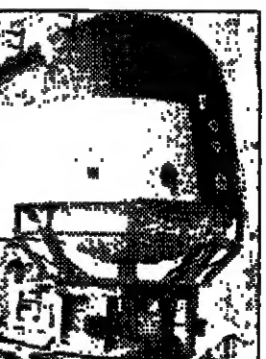


Fit Li Fitz Muse of RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, tracking the route over Europe of the Chinese satellite (pictured below) that is expected to fall to earth tomorrow

stuck together," said Mr Crowther.

Any attempt to establish a comprehensive anti-missile system of the kind first proposed by President Reagan in 1983 will require a huge observation network. This means more satellites, and more launchers in the same orbit.

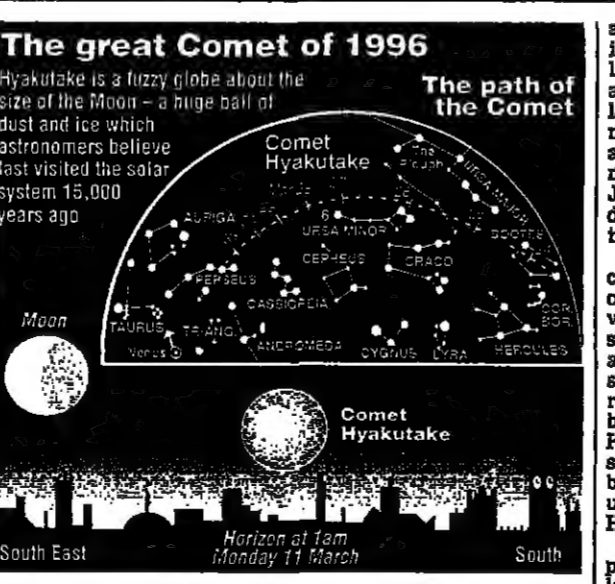
1994 from deep within the experimental fabric of a European spacecraft.



COMET: 15,000-year comeback in a blaze of glory or a hazy flop

Tim Radford

IT SNEAKED into the night sky as a pinpoint of light on the southern horizon very early today and within a fortnight it will be a mere 10 million miles from the Earth. Comet Hyakutake — discovered by a Japanese amateur astronomer only in January — will swell to a radiant ball the size of the full moon and could become the spectacle of the decade.



"It is going to get very close from a cometary standpoint, and therefore the actual comet gets spread out over a large area of the sky. This makes it very difficult to see. The problem with comets is that you are not looking at a stellar point source, you are looking at a diffuse source of light."

Comets are lumps of ice and dust and rock that may be remnants of the early solar system. They live in strange orbits and often appear unexpectedly.

appointing Comet Kohoutek in the 1970s was supposed to light up the night sky. Hardy anyone saw it. Comet Halley's last visit in the 1980s was no more than a demure appearance. In 1994, Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 streamed into Jupiter in a cosmic fireworks display that was almost invisible from Earth.

Advertisement for Alliance Française, featuring the text 'What's the difference between us and other French teachers?' and 'We offer business class.'

George Burns leaves fans laughing as final curtain falls

Ian Katz in New York

AS FRIENDS and colleagues competed to offer the most glowing tribute to the comic legend George Burns, millions of his fellow Americans yesterday mourned his passing the way he would have wanted — in stitches of laughter.

swapped his most memorable one-liners.

home at 10am on Saturday with his manager, Irving Fein, his son Ronnie Burns, and his housekeeper at his side, less than two months after celebrating his 100th birthday.

man who's been so blessed? Another 100 years? A night with Sharon Stone?"

Internet petition aims to persuade French government to block 'yuppie' development



At risk... 2 Rue Montbuisson. Nin's 'laboratory of the soul'



Henry Miller: Nin's lover and literary muse

Battle to save Nin's house of love and lust

Alex Duval Smith in Louveciennes

CHIC commuters in Louveciennes like to think of their village rather as Anais Nin described it when she lived there in 1931: a place "left intact by modern life", where "people come from Paris on Sundays to lunch and row on the Seine, as Maupassant liked to do". They appear keen to suppress thoughts of what went on the rest of the week in the Louveciennes house where the writer lived between 1930 and 1936, and where she launched her career.

At 2 Rue Montbuisson, Nin could be found engaging in sex romps with Henry Miller; her husband, Hugo Guiler; her cousin Edouardo; or her Peruvian lover, Gonzalo. That is, when she was not juggling after Miller's wife, June.

Campaigners who wish to save the crumbling villa in Rue Montbuisson — uninhabited, except by squatters, for the last 15 years — claim France is exercising undue prudishness.

The battle to save the 18th century hunting lodge from being sold to developers has been taken up on the Internet by an American antiques dealer, Barbara Ann Sapp, and a British student, Omar McDoom. Today they are putting a petition on their

web site, <http://www.dol.com/Nin/>, in the hope that supporters will bombard French decision-makers.

Ms Sapp, aged 22, said yesterday: "The French authorities think of Nin only as Miller's mistress and refuse to take her seriously. It does not help that she wrote in English, even though she was born in France. But all we are asking from the French state is that it should object to a developer buying the house."

This would give campaigners time to raise up to £200,000 to purchase the house which Nin called her "laboratory of the soul". It would be turned into a cultural centre where modern writers in the Hemingway and Fitzgerald tradition could work.

Ms Sapp said a developer had already put in an offer for the house and planned to convert it into "yuppie flats". Unless state architects are persuaded to object by March 25, the garden will be split into three plots for luxury villas.

Nin, they argue, was an avant-garde feminist writer who should be remembered for more than documenting her desires and inspiring the Cacharel perfume. Anais Anais.

Ms Sapp said: "Nin used to say, 'I really believe that if I were not a writer, not a creator, not an experimenter, I might have been a



Literary snub... Although born in France, Anais Nin wrote in English and has been ignored by the authorities

very faithful wife.' In fact, while her husband, an American banker, was away, Nin would get up to all sorts of tricks."

The deception revolved mainly around Nin's machinations to sleep with and support Miller. "She was a great seamstress and would tell Guiler she needed a new dress from Dior. He would give her the money and she would run something off using fabric she had bought."

"When she needed new underwear, she would buy

it at the flea market. She gave Miller the money she saved," said Ms Sapp, whose campaign is backed by Nin's second husband, Rupert Pole. Nin died in Los Angeles in 1977.

As well as the most controversial episodes of her diary, Nin wrote *Spy in the House of Love* in Louveciennes. Miller is believed to have worked at the house, too, and Lawrence Durrell, the photographer Gyula Brassai, and the sculptor Constantin Brancusi were frequent visitors.

Liverpool sets £1,000 council tax

Martyn Halsall

CASH-STARVED Liverpool council yesterday set the country's highest council tax, taking band D payers through £1,000 for the first time in the country. However, the council staved off immediate compulsory redundancies for its workers with a deal expected to include a temporary pay cut.

Hundreds of workers lobbied the town hall as the Labour controlled authority agreed a 4.5 per cent increase in council tax.

The Labour group's £96 million budget, which had to absorb £44 million of government-imposed cuts, was passed by 47 votes to 41, after a four-hour debate and eight hours before this year's deadline expired.

After the meeting, Harry Rimmer, the council leader, said he was confident of an "understanding" response from the unions, but warned against action that would disrupt council services. "It would be futile; it wouldn't achieve anything," he said.

He said negotiations "may very well involve" job losses, but forecast these might be avoided "if we get maximum co-operation between now and March 31".

The budget, fiercely opposed by the Liberal Democrats, set a council tax of between £570.57 for band A and £2,012.92 for band H. It takes properties in band D — those valued at between £28,000 and £38,000 — above £1,000 for the first time in the country.

Labour leaders blamed the new rates primarily on the Government's hostility to Labour-controlled cities. They pointed out that 85 per cent of Liverpool's properties were in band A, valued at up to £40,000.

Several hundred protesters whistled and jeered councillors as they entered the town hall. Carboard effigies of Hitler and Churchill were brandished to underline the protests.

Changes already clear from yesterday's vote include a 15p increase in school meals charges, to £1, and a deal for 24,000 council workers expected to include a 2 per cent pay cut for six months and a six-month suspension of a 2.9 per cent pay increase.

"Job losses had been projected at between 140 and 863, with the council pledging

everything possible to avoid compulsory redundancies. Talks up to March 31 would include "strenuous efforts" to identify alternative savings, and a comprehensive review of council structures, including councillors' allowances.

Mr Rimmer said he commended a "bad budget" to the council, "not with any great sense of achievement — it's making the best of an extremely poor job".

He criticised government categories governing aid. One such index showed Liverpool 85th on a table of the most deprived authorities, while Westminster was ranked fourth. Liverpool, where unemployment is 18.5 per cent, was also "less deprived" than places like Lincoln and Runcorn.

If Liverpool received the same financial support as Westminster, it would be able

to give a £250 rebate to every council tax payer, said Mr Rimmer.

The Liberal Democrats' alternative proposals were defeated by 50 votes to 38. Flo Lucas, the party's deputy leader, said Labour proposals would cost 170 jobs and involve a pay cut levelled unfairly to at both poorly paid and well-paid council employees.

"As far as this council is concerned, there's been a hole in it for some time," she said. "There is no political leadership to take it into the 20th century, let alone the 21st."

She said the budget was a recipe for disaster, which would fall apart in the next six months.

"You will have nowhere else to run, except compulsory redundancies," she told the Labour leadership.

Frank Prendergast, Labour deputy leader, said the budget was "a package that's bridging the gap for this city". But he warned councillors: "It is no good anybody walking away from here today and thinking that the problems are over. The problems are only just beginning... if any of the [budget] figures are going to be achieved."

Budget means band D payers will break four-figure barrier for first time in country

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Coma man taps out tale of murder attempt

Police reopen inquiry into train 'accident' that injured musician

Helen Nowicka

A YOUNG musician who suffered brain damage in what appeared to be an accident has emerged from a two-year coma to tell doctors he was the victim of a murder attempt.

Detectives have reopened their investigation into what happened to Geoffrey Wildsmith in the minutes before he was found lying in a pool of blood shortly after midnight on April 24, 1994.

Mr Wildsmith, then 19, had been playing bass guitar with his band Rich and Famous at a hotel in Haslemere, Surrey, before catching a train home to Guildford. He complained of feeling unwell and reportedly asked an acquaintance to meet on the train to mind his bag while he went for some air.

Shortly afterwards he was found lying in the carriage corridor bleeding heavily.

Part of his skull and brain were missing.

A window was open above where Mr Wildsmith was found, and traces of flesh were recovered from the carriage side, leading detectives to believe he had leaped out and been struck by an oncoming train or the wall of a tunnel. Police were unable to trace any witnesses.

Mr Wildsmith, an optician's assistant, was paralysed in the incident and remained in a persistent vegetative state at the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in Putney, south-west London, until last month.

Then staff noticed a slight movement in the tip of the little finger on his right hand and tried to communicate with him. A computer operated by a button was linked to a buzzer so Mr Wildsmith could hear how many times he touched it, and a coded alphabet was devised so he could tap messages.

When doctors asked if he could remember what happened on the night he was injured he replied that he could and it had not been an accident. He painstakingly spelled out that assailants had tried to kill him.

British Transport Police officers led by Detective Inspector Ron Walker took Mr Wildsmith's statement at his bedside.

Detectives have since re-interviewed several people questioned two years ago, and are pursuing fresh leads. They are also reviewing forensic tests that failed to find any human tissue on oncoming trains or tunnels.

Detective Chief Superintendent Peter Wheat of British Transport Police said: "He is telling us new things which we are taking seriously."

Yesterday Mr Wildsmith's mother, Maria Appasamy, said she had been shocked to learn of the assault. "For nearly two years we have all believed it was an accident and now the police are investigating something more sinister, it's hard to come to terms with," she said.

'Two-strike' sentences will need more jails Howard admits

continued from page 1

matic life sentence would mean the repeat rapist would "cut their losses and murder the only witness to the crime". The Home Secretary insisted that somebody who had just committed a rape would not be in a "calm rational state of mind to make that kind of assessment".

Lord Donaldson, former Master of the Rolls, told the Guardian the "two strikes and you're out" proposal was still a "sledgehammer to crack a nut" which would apply to only 40 cases a year.

Lord Donaldson, who has warned of the danger of "despotic" government, suggested a new indeterminate sentence instead of life. Judges could impose a sentence of a number of years but leave it open for the offender to be kept in prison after that if he still posed a danger.

"He had once imposed a life sentence on a repeat rapist, "but in those days I had no doubt about the objectivity with which the question of release would be approached. I personally now do have doubts."

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It's a power thing; and power — in various permutations — is really what's at the heart of the British fascination with dogs. The "hound" of the royal or baronial master, used for hunting in his exclusive forests, has come down to the mass of the people.

Profile

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Decision on Hindley 'in due course'

THE decision on whether the Moors Murderer Myra Hindley will be released from prison will be taken "in due course" the Home Secretary indicated yesterday.

British soldier wounded

A BRITISH soldier was shot and wounded by an off-duty policeman yesterday in a Cyprus pub brawl, but there are conflicting claims as to whether the officer was involved in the fight or attempting to restore order.

Berlin to get BBC World

GERMANY has granted BBC World, the 24hr international news channel, a terrestrial licence to broadcast in Berlin, which will boost its potential audience by 4.3 million households.

Murderer ready to hang

THE convicted British murderer John Martin, on death row in Singapore for killing a South African tourist last year, will not seek clemency from President Ong Teng Cheong, the Singapore Sunday Times newspaper said.

Ex-boxer fighting dump

FORMER world boxing champion Barry McGuigan is fighting plans to site a huge rubbish dump and recycling plant within a few hundred yards of his home.

Duchess has viral illness

THE Duchess of Kent is suffering a debilitating viral illness which was diagnosed the day before her recent 10-day visit to India for the United Nations Children's Fund.

Learning to be happy

PEOPLE get more happiness from learning something new than from sex or the lottery, according to a Gallup survey published yesterday by the North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council.

Short accuses Government of 'mortgaging the future before Parliament has approved Tunnel bill'

Channel rail link land expected to yield big profits bonanza for consortium

Keith Harper Transport Editor

THE Government has revealed that "a high level of profit" can be made from the development of land which is part of the £5.7 billion worth of public assets and cash handed over to the private consortium which will build the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Cross area of central London have sold out for considerable amounts in preparation for its development.

A Government memorandum quietly laid before Parliament late on Friday anticipates substantial profits on both sites, but says that given uncertainty, a clawback scheme has been put in place under which profits above an agreed level will be shared equally between the Government and the consortium.

It also says the Government's £1.4 billion contribution can be reduced if profits are big enough.

The memorandum says the freehold will not be transferred to the consortium until the rail link has been completed. It can allow earlier development so long as the proceeds are spent solely on the rail link project.

The memorandum pro-

voled a furious reaction last night from Clare Short, Labour's transport spokeswoman. She described it as an attempt to "mortgage the future even before the Channel Tunnel bill has been approved by Parliament".

The bill has just started to go through Parliament, but is unlikely to be completed until early next year.

The memorandum from the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, shows that the Government wants to press ahead with all the rail-link preparatory work, even though it will be out of office before construction begins.

Ms Short said: "Labour remains totally committed to the link. If we had been listened to, the project could have been built at less cost and with public money. But the Government is making commitments over the project

which it has no right to do. These will have to be re-examined by any new government, and certainly by a Labour administration."

The memorandum makes it clear that the consortium will only be responsible for the construction and commercial risks. The Government would assume responsibility for the project if the consortium's assets were sequestered, and if ministers ordered changes to the project.

The Government could also take responsibility for matters relating to "existing leases and tenancies," which the consortium is taking over.

Generous reasons to extend the time allowed for completion of the project beyond 2002 have also been written in by Sir George.

The reasons range from bad weather conditions to the discovery of hazardous waste

and unexpected ground conditions. Two other letouts are the protection of listed buildings and fauna.

The memorandum claims that the rail-link will provide £8 billion of benefits to the public, of which £4.8 billion will be in increased value of the link to international passengers.

Because the Government is reserving capacity on the line for up to eight domestic trains and hour, long distance commuters will also benefit.

The link will enable international services to more than double existing capacity of four trains every hour on routes between London and the Channel Tunnel.

The memorandum sets out possible circumstances when the Government and the consortium would share responsibility. Among them are de-



Clare Short: angry reaction to rail link memorandum

lays in royal assent to the rail-link bill and changes in law and taxation which discriminate against the consortium.



The museum's Melanie Weatherly mops up. Kitchens in the iron houses were small to make families use the larger front room for mind enriching pursuits.



Roger Colbourn paints window frames on the house that is now a museum piece

Daughter of the Iron House revisits her birthplace

Maeve Kennedy

PAT Smith is returning to the house where she was born today, slightly surprised to find it has become a museum piece.

When she was born there in 1927, the council house in Dudley, West Midlands, looked like any other semi, but there were two clues: its name, and the consequences when a child couldn't resist the temptation and hurled a stone. It was called The Iron House, and it clanged like a gong when struck.

The east iron council houses were designed after the war as homes fit for heroes. It was thought they would be cheap and easy to build, and could be mass pre-fabricated by iron foundries. They were indeed quick to assemble — records show the 600 cast

iron panels for these houses were bolted together in eight days — but in the end they cost nearly £1,000 a pair, twice as much as brick. Only three pairs were built in Dudley, and now there is only this pair left, fused together at the Black Country Museum, Dudley, out of the best bits of the six houses.

They were listed in the 1980s, just as Dudley council was giving up the struggle to maintain them. The discovery they were insulated with asbestos was the last straw, and the last tenant moved out in 1987.

The museum curator, Anne Linszen, has found the original plans and contracts and discovered there was a measure of social engineering built in. "They had good big front rooms and deliberately small kitchens, in the hope that people would sit in the

front rooms and not in the kitchen, and have conversations, listen to the radio, occupy themselves with improving hobbies."

One of the houses is being left with stripped interior walls to reveal the construction, and the other is being fitted out with original furniture painstakingly refurbished to look brand new.

Mrs Smith moved to her own brick house when she married in 1949, and never saw the Iron House again after her mother left, but remembers it with great affection. "Of course we never knew about the asbestos, that fills me with horror now," she says. "But it was a lovely home. People say they were cold in winter and like an oven in summer, but I don't remember that. I'm delighted it's in the museum. I shall take my grandchildren to see it."

Trimble warns Dublin on 'weasel words'

Unionist anger at perceived drift in decommissioning commitment

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

THE ULSTER Unionist leader David Trimble travels to Dublin today to warn that he will boycott the June 10 all-party talks unless the Irish government takes seriously the need for decommissioning arms.

Mr Trimble, who meets the Irish prime minister John Bruton for a working dinner tonight, will insist that legislation is in place by June to establish a commission to oversee paramilitary decommissioning as talks progress.

The Ulster Unionist deputy leader John Taylor, who will accompany Mr Trimble, said he was concerned by a perceived drift in Dublin's commitment to the principal, as set out in the Anglo-Irish communique which set June 10 as the date for talks.

He said that the Irish foreign minister Dick Spring had claimed that the requirement that decommissioning be "addressed" on the first day of talks meant only that it should be "mentioned". This was another example of Dub-

lin using "weasel words" and failing to honour agreements. "Unionists cannot take part in talks with Sinn Fein until there is a clear commitment to proceed with decommissioning by stages as laid down in the Mitchell report," he said. "We are going to ask Dublin tomorrow 'are you turning your back on the Mitchell report?'"

In his report George Mitchell, President Clinton's special Irish envoy, recommended that the paramilitaries destroy their weapons in front of independent verifiers as the talks continue.

Mr Trimble said he was "absolutely delighted" by a speech made by Mr Bruton at his Fine Gael party's annual conference this weekend, in which the taoiseach lambasted the IRA and said that there could be no effective talks unless everybody was willing to negotiate by the same rules.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister, also welcomed the tone of Mr Bruton's speech. On BBC's Breakfast with Frost programme, he said of the IRA and Sinn Fein "one is a member of the other" and that they alone were excluding themselves from the process. "If they want to become part of that democratic path then they have to unequivocally restore the ceasefire."

Mr Ancram acknowledged that there were differences between the Northern Ireland parties on the form that elections should take place, but he said he hoped that they would accept whatever the Government decided.

Later Mr Bruton told Irish radio that the meeting today between the entire Irish government team and the unionist delegation was "a historic event". Previously Mr Trimble has said he would only meet individual party



David Trimble: threat to boycott peace talks

Gary Glitter may never make it to the White House, but he could help someone else get there. For, whether he knows it or not, the seventies rocker has been enlisted in the campaign to elect Bob Dole president of the United States.

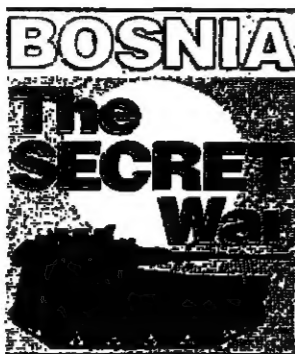
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Traumatized survivors tell Ed Vulliamy of the horrors perpetrated by one man against the people of Visegrad, in eastern Bosnia

Bloody trail of butchery at the bridge



THE bridge that spans the River Drina's hazy current at Visegrad is a Bosnian emblem. Bridge on the Drina is the title of a great work of literature by the country's most celebrated author, Ivo Andrić, a Nobel prize winner. In Andrić's book, the bridge is at once backdrop and silent witness to Bosnia's history. It is a mighty and glorious structure spanning the river at a point where savage, precipitous rocks briefly part, giving way to a verdant valley. The water flowing through its elegant arches is a luminous blend of turquoise and jade.

The bridge was built, as the carved inscription proudly declares, in 1571 by order of the Ottoman Grand Vizier Mehmed Paşa, of robust purple stone hewn by Ratko the Mason. "Of all the things that life drives man to shape and build," wrote Andrić, "none, I think, is as precious as bridges... They serve no arcane or evil purpose." A few of the bodies were swept from the waters by a teenager, whose quiet testimony begins the unrelenting butchery at the bridge.

JASMIN R's fresh face belies what he knows. Jasmin was evacuated to Dublin last Christmas from a prison camp in Serbia, to which he had fled from the crushed Muslim enclave of Zepa, to which he had fled from Visegrad in 1992.

During his three years at Zepa, Jasmin, aged 14 on arrival, was considered too young to fight. Instead, he was assigned to a hamlet called Sijak, a lonely junction between the Drina and Zepa rivers. There his job was to haul bloated corpses out of the Drina's current as it flowed from Visegrad, bring them ashore in a small boat often under Serbian fire, and give them a proper burial. "We dug the graves," he says calmly, "and buried 180 people. Some I knew personally, they had been my neighbours in Visegrad." The Bosnian government calculates that probably about one in 20 bodies were salvaged.

Jasmin's companion in this work was Mersud C, now based in a barracks for exiled Zepa soldiers up a front-line mountain in central Bosnia. "The bodies came," says Mersud, "almost every day. Men and women, old and young. They had been beaten and tortured, they were black and blue, and some had been decapitated. Yes, and there were children. Mostly 10 or 12, and two infants of about 18 months. Eighty-two corpses were identified. The graves were dug for one, three or five at a time, named or numbered, and ringed by a low fence.

Before the war, Mersud had spent summer evenings with friends on the bridge. "It was the place to meet before going for coffee. I read the Andrić book. It was compulsory at school."

The Serbian slaughter of Muslims in eastern Bosnia at the war's inception was largely hidden from prying eyes. Unknown to the outside world, on August 5 1994 a Serbian soldier from Visegrad, called Milomir Obradović, held prisoner in Muslim Gornje, told his captors the story of one man: Milan Lukic. A UN policeman, Sergeant T. Cameron, took notes.

Obradović told how Lukic paraded around Visegrad with a megaphone, shrieking: "Bosnian Serbs, it's time to finish off the Muslims" and how Lukic set about achieving this goal. Lukic, he said, locked men, women and children in houses and incinerated them. He arrived at factories, took employees out and shot them — for a while he kept the wife of one such victim, Igalba Rafirovic, as a captive sexual partner.

Lukic tied a man to his car with a tow-rope and dragged him round town until he was dead. One member of Lukic's gang, "The Wolf", raped one of the girls they kept prisoner for the purpose at the Vilina Vlas spa hotel so violently that when the rest demanded their turn the girl, Jasna Ahmedzagic, jumped out of a window to her death.

There were two massacres in May 1992, said Obradović. At a village called Prsevo, Lukic took men off buses, shipping Muslims out of Visegrad, lay them face down and shot them. "There is," confessed Obradović, "a mass grave at Prsevo." Another convoy of refugees was stopped by Lukic at Dragomirje, the men again taken, and shot. Obradović told of mass murder on Visegrad's bridge, adding that the killing was sanctioned by the Yugoslav army. By a cruel twist, Obradović's captors exchanged him, apparently unaware of his value. The witness was lost. Obradović has not been heard of since, and any investigator might wonder whether he met the same fate as another Serb official who objected to Lukic's mass murder, Stanko Petkovic. Obradović said Lukic murdered him.



Slippery customer... General Ratko Mladic, wanted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague, out skiing on Mt Johorina near Sarajevo at the weekend. He said on Greek television: "This is a political court with no legal basis... a pot where the fate of people is cooked." Meanwhile French fire fighters were sent into Hilda, Sarajevo yesterday, after fleeing Serbs set several buildings alight

But, following the trail of Lukic's bloodlust, The Guardian has reconstructed the case, and found other witnesses to the Visegrad carnage scattered across Bosnia and Europe. Their testimonies interweave like threads in a tapestry. There is no Muslim from Visegrad who does not know what Milan Lukic did on their bridge, and vice versa.

'If the red Passat arrived, you knew something terrible would happen to you'

there are very few who do not mourn in his wake.

Mersud the gravedigger knew the man whose victims he pulled from the river; they had been neighbours. Lukic, now about 30, was born in the village of Rujiste, said Mersud, and "seemed a good guy". Another neighbour called Omer, now in Sarajevo, said that Lukic's family had been "ferocious Chetniks in the second world war". Lukic moved to Serbia after leaving high school to keep a cafe in Obrenovac, near Belgrade, but returned as the clouds of war gathered in spring 1992. Lukic assembled a gang of 15 braves, including his brother Milos, cousin Sredolje, a chum from Belgrade called Devan Jetic and a waiter, Mitar Vasiljevic. Before long Lukic committed the first murder in Visegrad's war.

Mirsada K. was at home when she heard a shot next door. The little girl from the household came running to Mirsada's house, saying her mother Bakha Zukic was dead, shot in the back, and her father Dazmo taken. The man who had fired the shot was Milan Lukic; he had taken a fancy to Dazmo's new red Volkswagen Passat, and had made off with both man and car. Dazmo Zukic was never seen again, but the car became omnipresent. From that day hence — as another witness, Fahima D., said: "If the red Passat arrived at your house, you knew something terrible was about to happen to you." Thus Milan Lukic sparked an orgy of violence which emptied Visegrad of 14,500 Muslims.

The bridge was not the only killing field. Women have survived to bear witness to Lukic's house-burnings. Her hands and face disfigured by fire, Zehra T. was the sole survivor of an inferno at Bakovic, above the bridge, on June 27, in which 71 people were incinerated.

Zehra K. was herded into a stadium and thence to a house with 60 others. The Passat arrived at 5pm. Within four hours, she said: "The sky was light because the house was in flames." Zehra escaped through a window.

A man called Hasan Ajnovic survived a cull of men in the house of a waiter called Meho. Meho had worked alongside Lukic's waiter-benchman Vasiljevic at the Pance restaurant. Six men, including Meho and his son Ekhem, were driven to the riverbank in a convoy led by Lukic and Vasiljevic, where they were lined up and shot. Hasan jumped into the water before he was hit, and was shielded by Meho's floating corpse.

The bloodiest arena was the bridge itself. The structure is visible from almost every balcony and window in Visegrad, which climbs both sides of the valley. Its cobblestones are a stage at the foot of an amphitheatre; the executions were intended to be as public as possible. From her balcony, Fahima D. watched. She saw "Lukic, in his Passat, and the trucks behind, arriving on the bridge each evening". The gang would unload their human cargo, and the killing began. "We saw them by day or by the city lights, whether they were killing men that time, women or children. It took half an hour, sometimes more."

'I could hear both women screaming until they were shot in the stomach. They fell in'

would throw people off alive," Fahima recalled, "shooting at the same time. Sometimes they would make them swim a bit, then shoot."

One witness, Admir H., recalled Lukic enjoying music from the Passat's radio while throwing two men into the river. "I can't swim" protested one of them, Samir, as Lukic fired into the water. At the end of June a Visegrad police inspector, Milan Josipovic, received a macabre complaint from downriver, from the management of Bajina Basta hydro-electric plant across the Serbian border. The plant director said could whoever was responsible please slow the flow of corpses down the Drina? They were clogging up the culverts in his dam at such a rate that he could not assemble sufficient staff to remove them. The dam is well downriver from Jasmin's and Mersud's Zepa graveyard — their 180 bodies were a small fraction of the total.

Hasena M. lived in a first floor flat, 150 yards from the riverbank in Visegrad. By July 15 she had spent 12 days wondering whether her husband Nusret was alive. He had been taken by a Serbian neighbour he had known well, Dragan Tomic, and disappeared. Hasena set off for work at 6.30, across the bridge as usual, to find Lukic already busy at that unusual hour. "Two young men with their hands tied behind their backs" were being executed to the sound of his car radio.

'I wish I could drive that bridge from my mind, but I see it... That bridge will drive me mad'

They fell into the water, then laughing as they watched. The water went red.

This was the beginning of Hasena's calvary. She hid overnight in an empty house with the children, returning home at dawn to seek out her invalid father, who was unable to walk. "My father said: 'Go. Take the girls, run away. You obviously can't take me. I'll wait here until they come for me. Go.' I looked at him, and then at my girls. I made him some breakfast and he said: 'Come here, my daughter, so I can kiss you the last time.' He kissed me and the girls, and we left him sitting there, alone." When the Serbs caught up with Hasena, they took her and the girls to a house full of other Muslim women, where they were held captive for two

months. Many women from Visegrad say they "shared a house with other women" during that summer. That is all. Some details, if spoken, can destroy any attempt to rebuild life.

On September 13, Hasena was moved. And now her story adds another, fresh name to the grisly list of Serbian concentration camps in Bosnia: Uzamnica.

Hasena was kept in a crowded barracks for three years, while her daughters lost their childhood. "I used to look at them in the morning, asleep, locked in while the sun was shining outside, and cry."

Uzamnica was a forced labour camp, so that when they were outside Hasena and her girls were working, even six-year-old Nermina. It was hard labour, dawn-to-dusk, planting tomatoes or feeding cattle. The only food the Serbs provided for their Muslim prisoners was forbidden pork. Lukic was a regular visitor to Uzamnica. "He came every day, wild, saying 'I'll kill you filthy gypsies' — beating and abusing prisoners at will. The screams of pain, said Hasena, came mainly from the men's quarters. Each week, convoys of male prisoners would leave the camp, heading into Serbia, never to be seen again. Last October Hasena and her girls were exchanged, and made it to Sarajevo.

Visegrad is now a beleaguered town. It is awful to look down at the vigorous current gliding beneath the Sofa and its parapet, and to wonder that this was the last thing those terrified, mutilated people saw as they plunged.

But Visegrad is still home to the Ivo Andrić library, the finest collection of his books in the world. The librarian, Stojka Mijatovic, offered us a volume, a gift. "We have taken so many books from Muslim houses we hardly know what to do with them," she said. Mrs Mijatovic had once presented this very edition of Andrić to the library's most regular and best-loved client. Now she had it back, looted from the dead man's house.

"Would you like me to cross out the Muslim names?" she offered. "No thank you." The dedication from the library was to Emir Ajnovic, a relative of the witness to the murder of Osman's father and brother.

Would you ever want to see the bridge again? Osman and Fahima shrieked: "Never." And Hasena? She shivered. "Never. Not if I lived a thousand years. I wish I could drive that bridge from my mind, but I see it as though I were there now. That bridge will drive me mad." Looking for Milan Lukic is a dangerous pastime. The bus telegraph informs us that he is now back in Obrenovac, Serbia, and a wealthy man. It is a drab, faceless town and the glass-fronted Viski Bar he is said to have managed is a comfortless place scantily patronised and blaring out Montenegrin folk music. An inquiry as to Mr Lukic's whereabouts is met with a stony glare charged with menace, and not sensibly challenged. But there was one, ominous, recent sighting. A Muslim soldier from Zepa, present at the fall of the enclave in 1995, said he saw Lukic with the Serbian army patrolling the columns of Muslim fighters as they lined up to surrender. He was looking for anyone he recognised, and shouting: "Anyone from Visegrad step out of the line! Anyone from Visegrad!" Even then it seemed, Lukic's work at the bridge on the Drina was unfinished.

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Rugby Union

Freed by perfect outside break

Frank Keating examines the abdication of Will Carling as England captain and realises that everything was pointing to it

AN EXIT coup, out of the blue and exactly on cue, Will Carling's perfect management was perfectly planned and executed. He decided on it after England's stoutly disciplined and equally strategic victory last Saturday in Edinburgh.

THE CARLING YEARS

- 1985: Born Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire
1984: Leaves Sedburgh for Durham University. Captains England at 18-group level.
1986: Selected for Northern Division.
1987: Plays for England B.
1988: Graduates with degree in psychology. Buys way out of Army for £5,000 when told to spend six months without rugby at Sandhurst.

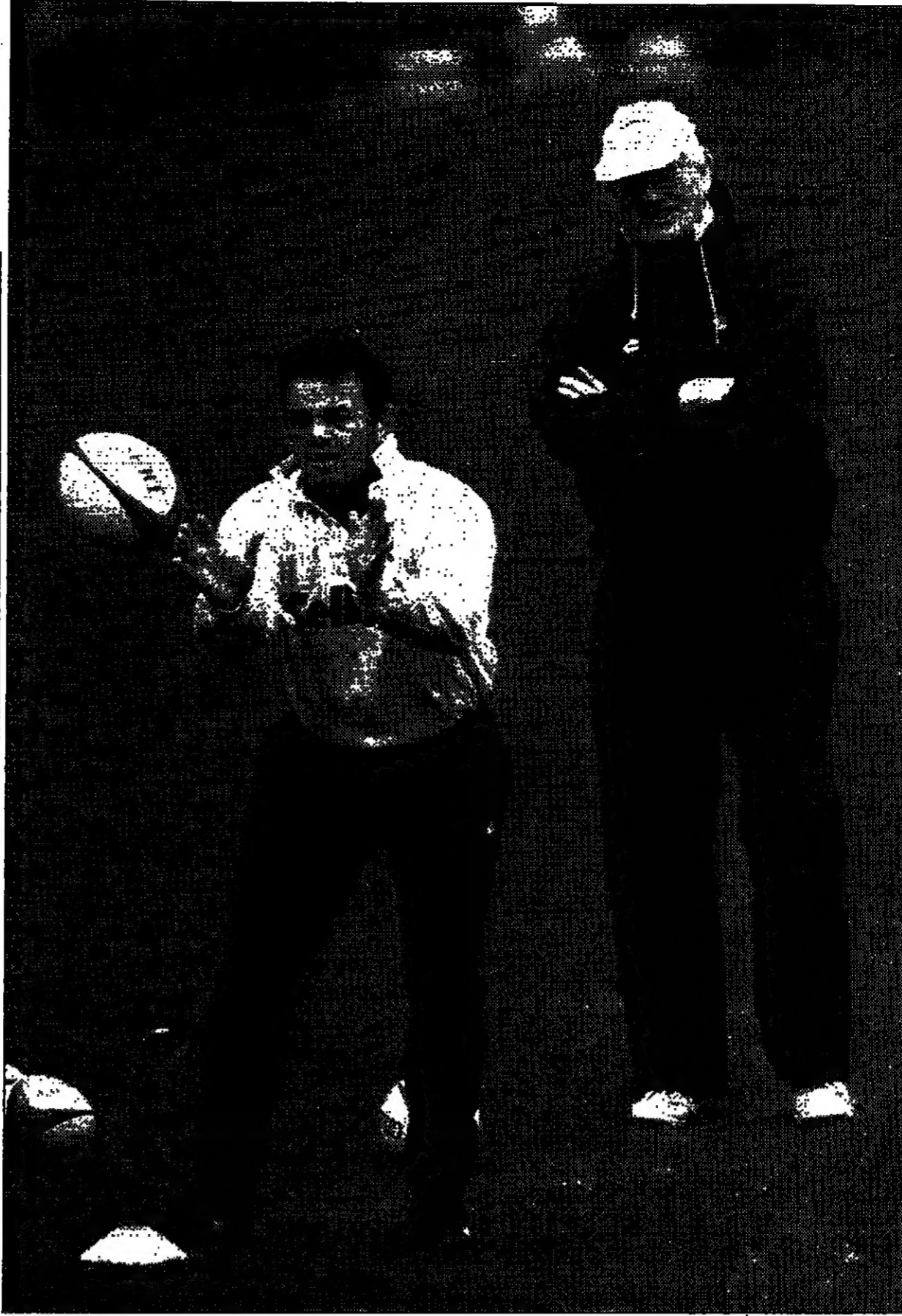
jump or push. The timing was perfect for him and his team, and he was the only one who realised it; at last you see why Carling's management company is called Insights. He bows out precisely on his own terms and, nicely, a week before the throng at Twickenham can emotionally acclaim a Triple Crown and a personal and deserved all-hand and farewell (not that he, shy boy, would have thought of that. But his agent will have).

Carling has allowed a satisfactory long interregnum for consideration of his successor before the pre-Christmas internationals. It is also possible, knowing Rowell's management credo, that the squad could be given their own secret vote on the captaincy.

decisive political strike did that, with knobs on.

Any student of Carling's style should have realised how yesterday's announcement was on the cards. A year ago to the month — weeks before the flatulent 57 hoo-ha — he said in a throwaway line that he longed to enjoy one, just one, last season of international rugby — the best of the squad and without the burden of leadership. One shrugged, not twinging he meant it, nor its relevance. Add that could well come to pass, for his rugby shows few signs of losing its dynamic.

At the start of this season, when Rowell posted the first of his post-World Cup squads, the announcement contained the name W D C Carling with the parameters and "captain" after it. He must have thought that significant. If Carling began this season in the dark, it was Rowell who, at the end of it, was in the dark about Carling's leaving of it.



Handing over ... Will Carling finally decides to turn his back on the England coach Jack Rowell

me, this challenge we are embarking on together. Newspapers say rugby is an individual thing. Bollocks! It's not. It's collective. It's a team, a group, a brotherhood. And it's pride. This match we play for each other. I'm proud not half so much to be captain as to part of this squad of

friends. When I come off this pitch in France, it will be you I look straight in the eye. Each one of you. And it will be a look of intense pride with which we gaze strongly back at each other — and we'll be hugely proud of what we've achieved; hugely proud to the end of our days.

nothing in the 53rd minute. David Hulme, playing only his second game since November, completed an impressive return but either side of his score were touchdowns for Hammond and Northey.

Saints' immediate worry concerns Newlove. He did not score but looked worth every penny of his £300,000 transfer fee. His performance lost a little of its glitter, however, after he was placed on report for an alleged high tackle.

Challenge Cup semi-final: St Helens 24, Widnes 14

McRae finds quick way to Wembley

Shaun McRAE, the Australian, led his once-wildly-Celtic Saints Raiders, on Saturday secured his new team's place at Wembley after only four games in charge at St Helens, which must be some sort of record.

image of Eric Hughes, who was bundled into redundancy only days after coaching St Helens to an admirable defeat in January's Royal Trophy final.

Bulls — it should be apparent how far McRae has succeeded in striking a balance between attacking flair and defensive security.

But while Widnes might not have done quite enough to deserve a place in the final there was an understandable sense of injustice at the try denied to Devereux in the 28th minute.

hind when Hume touched down on the right after Spruce had produced a fine tackle to halt the dangerous Newlove on the other side of the field.

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Taunton runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race details (e.g., 2.00 Karan's Typhoon), Winner, and other race information.

Table with 2 columns: Race details (e.g., 3.30 Peter A Sybil Blackmore Memorial Handicap), Winner, and other race information.

Plumpton seven-race programme

Table with 2 columns: Race details (e.g., 2.50 Wylefield Novice Chase), Winner, and other race information.

4.20 Immediate Handicap Hurdle

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Racing Brook support dries up

BEFORE any big race, rumours invariably abound about the well-being of the leading contenders. But there is an unmistakable undercurrent of anxiety about Smurfit Champion Hurdle favourite Alderbrook.

Kim Bailey, the trainer, strongly denies there is anything wrong but curiously Richard Dunwoody has agreed to ride the outsider Squire Silk for Andy Turner should anything happen to the favourite.

Paul Carberry would have ridden Squire Silk but a whip suspension has ruled out the Irish jockey from the first two days of the meeting.

Hill's have pushed Alderbrook out to 11-10 with their Tony Cox on 20-1. Good reporting that they cannot take a penny for him.

It may be nothing more than worries that the ground is getting too fast for Alderbrook, who has had an operation to remove a cork bone from a joint in both his front legs and has always liked some give.

Coral's make him a 5-4 chance and have knocked out Imperial Call from 7-2 to 4-1 with another rumour doing the rounds in Cora's camp. Sutherland's chaser having a bad back.

Monsieur Le Cure has been clipped a couple of points to 10-1 but it would have to be a bog for this plodder to win.

Mr Martin Pipe had slightly better news yesterday of Draborgie who pulled up stiff after working on Friday. More freely and in more optimistic she will make the line-up in tomorrow's Arkle Chase.

Betting on the top jockey is, of course, dominated by Richard Dunwoody, who with an array of mouth-watering mounts is 15 with Coral, followed by Charlie Swan at 7-1. Jamie Osborne, Richard Johnson and Mick Fitzgerald are all bracketed at 12-1, with David Bridgwater at 16's and the season's leading rider Tony McCoy on 20-1.

• Cigar, the 1995 American Horse of the Year, continues to make excellent progress after bruising a foot last month and remains on course for the Dubai World Cup on March 27. The Breeds' Cup Classic winner worked a mile and a half at Gulfstream Park on Saturday and pleased his trainer Bill Mott, who said: "His foot was cold, he was moving fine and he jogged sound. He was great."

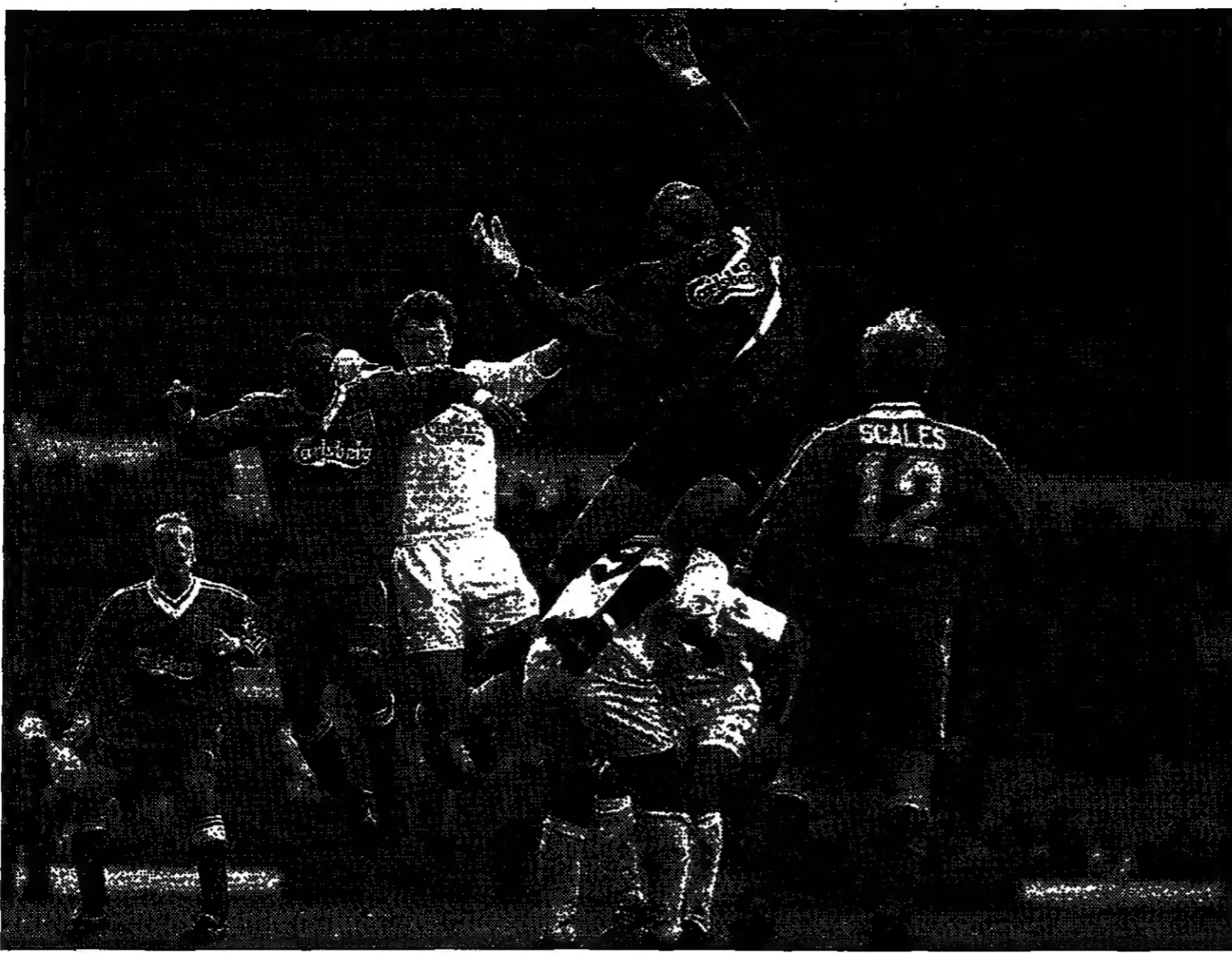
VENETIA'S SAY RACELINE COMMENTARY table with columns for race details, odds, and winners.

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FA CUP SOCCER

Cantona may face Gullit

THE enthralling prospect of a Round Gullit-Eric Cantona clash emerged from yesterday's complicated FA Cup semi-final draw...



Cup support factor... Liverpool's goalkeeper David James gets a lift on Tony Yeboah's back at Elland Road yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL STEELE

Sixth round: Chelsea 2, Wimbledon 2

Nomads homing in on Wembley again

Commentary

David Lacey

BATTERED by blizzards, protracted by postponements and replays, contorted by the television schedules and debased by penalty shoot-outs, the FA Cup still enthralled...

The Wanderers, who were the first winners of the Cup in 1872, were not quite the nomads the name implies. So Wimbledon would achieve some sort of uniqueness if they triumphed at Wembley on May 11...

would have been better equipped to stem the flow of Wimbledon movements which threatened to bury their Cup hopes before half-time. Twice in three minutes Hitchcock saved goal-bound shots from Leonhardsen, the second struck on the rebound after Harford had hit a post...

quick-thinking Leonhardsen set up an attacking platform which Chelsea only rarely challenged. If the absence of Lee handicapped Chelsea's defence, which in the second half conceded simple goals to leaders from Barrie and Holdsworth, the Wimbledon substitute, following free-kicks from Jones and Kimble...

Poll, who showed refreshing signs of abandoning his season's mission to achieve more bookings than the Blues, fell having pulled up Cunningham for a pass back that never was. Gullit's shot from Wise's short indirect free-kick flew high into the net off Jones...

Fifth-round replay Spurs 1, Nottm F 1 (aet; Forest 3-1 on pens)

Spotlight on Crossley

Martin Thorpe

WHILE some of the Premiership's top teams are striving to give the English playing style a sophisticated makeover, Nottingham Forest continue happily down the Cup catwalk clothed in the old national virtues of team spirit and tenacity...

still required when he described his winning penalty saves as merely the result of "guessing the right way to dive". Crossley's past record suggests that he possesses an amazing intuition for this form of combat...

Premiership: Aston Villa 4, QPR 2

Wilkins envies ramshackle Villa

Russell Thomas

RAY WILKINS does not like using the dreaded R-word. Perhaps the fixture list has uttered it for him. After familiar failure at Aston Villa comes what Wilkins called "a nice easy one - Manchester United"...

How Rangers would prefer some of Villa's current problems. "We're splintering," admitted Brian Little, noting the team which until recently was the meanest in the Premiership...



Yorkie... Villa's 'jewel'

minated Villa's triple advance on Europe. The FA Cup route, which takes Villa to Nottingham Forest on Wednesday, is threatened by midfield losses, with Scoullan suffering a knee ligament damage that could threaten his place in the Coca-Cola Cup final in a fortnight's time...

West Ham United 2, Middlesbrough 0

Barmby back to basics

Neil Robinson

THERE are two ways of looking at Nick Barmby. Either you take the Bryan Robson view that normal service will be resumed shortly before the end of Middlesbrough's 10th defeat in 11 league games...

the Riverside two days before Christmas they have failed to score on nine occasions and managed only five goals. Of those, Barmby and Jumbo have netted one apiece while Forjort, their striker-in-chief, has scored three...

Dowie's opener on 75 seconds was the first in the second half, the referee awarded a dubious penalty when the ball bobbed up from the pitch and struck Cox's hand. If Mr Reed believed it a deliberate handball, this is now an extremely rare full-back or even send him off!

Everton 2, Coventry City 2

Atkinson's men dig deep into their reserves

Cynthia Baberman

BIG JOE and Big Ron shared the spoils, thus averting any embarrassment yesterday when the two old muckers held their regular Sunday morning telephone conversation to discuss Saturday fortunes, or more often, in City's case, misfortunes...

In the second half Coventry made ground against a fragmented Everton but it was Strachan's influence in the last 20 minutes that swung the balance. The assistant manager inspired a grandstand finish, providing the pass for Salako to cross and Williams to score the equaliser off Short's shoulder with five minutes remaining...

Joe Royle, disappointed with his own men, believes Coventry will beat the drop "because they score goals. It may seem a ridiculous thing to say because they leak goals as well. But the other sides in relegation trouble are not scoring, and they are"

First Division: Sunderland 3, Derby County 0

Super Sunderland must ensure the king stays

Ian Ross

FOR those incurable romantics who still hunger for the so-called golden era of English football when the height of luxury was a leaking pasty which caused third-degree facial burns, there is something magical about a trip to Sunderland...

who has made bricks of substance from straw carried to his feet by the hot air of generations of disenfranchised supporters. On Saturday Reid's motley collection overran the side which seems most likely to accompany them into the Premiership without recourse to the play-offs. In its precision and execution Sunderland's football was always compelling and often breathtaking...

Scottish Cup, fifth round Celtic 2, Dundee United 1

Thom completes double dose of late agony for United

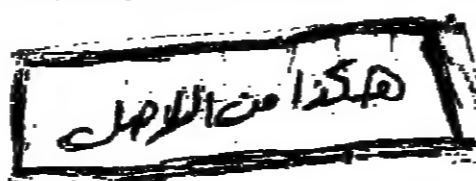
Patrick Glenn

HAVING a tooth pulled hardly have brought more pain to Dundee United than the goals which Celtic produced in the last two minutes yesterday to decide a pulsating fifth-round tie...

when McNamara took a free-kick wide on the right. Van Hoofdonk, the Premier Division's leading scorer, rose above the crowd to bullet his header past Maxwell. In the last minute McNamara's tackle on Coyle diverted the ball into the path of Thom, who sprinted away from the chasing defenders and from 15 yards, sent a fierce drive to the left of the goalkeeper...

Cricket World Cup Quarter Final Coverage 0891 22 88 29

Sport @ The Guardian



World Cup cricket

Like taking Kandy from a baby

Bargain time for Indian takeaways

Mika Sahay in Faisalabad

ENGLAND were dismissed unceremoniously out of the World Cup by Sri Lanka on Saturday. Asked to score a modest 236 to win, Sri Lanka indulged in such an orgy of strokeplay that the job was all but done by the midpoint of the innings...

who made 68 from just 41

balls, adding 101 to 100 from 120 runs for the second wicket with Anand Gurusinha. This was another excellent innings by Aravinda de Silva (51 off 30 balls) and Arjuna Ranatunga (25 off 17 balls) before Hashan Tillekeratne and Roshan Mahanama saw them home.

England were undone by the lack of cohesion in an experienced batting order that failed to set their own pace. De Freitas had to be subjected to assault and battery by wonderfully gifted Sri Lankan batsmen.

More crucial, however, was a brace of umpiring decisions during the England innings. De Freitas can count himself fortunate with the leg-before decision that went against him...



The light goes out... Jayasuriya's dozing innings is ended by a Russell stumpings off Reeve

Rarely can England bowlers have been subjected to the sort of indignity inflicted by Sanath Jayasuriya.

Earlier Robin Smith had been adjudged run out on video evidence seen by the third umpire, V K Ramaswamy. The decision was incredible, based on the flimsiest evidence.

Behind all the television coverage of this World Cup, it is simply not possible for television to guarantee being able to provide a replay from the correct angle.

Such a system is in existence and was in use in South Africa last winter. Called Pana-eye, it involves four static cameras, on poles to avoid interference from the crowd...

The setting up, removal and transportation of such systems during the 37 scheduled matches of this tournament would have required, by France's estimation, an outlay of \$1.3 million...

like Smith are going to get the benefit of such. Certainly there is no excuse for the Test and County Cricket Board not to invest in an independent system.

David Hopps on the currying of renewed fervour as champions fall in Bangalore

THE Bangalore street seller wanted 70 rupees and there was no recourse but to walk away. "OK sir, 80 rupees will give you 100, sir. It is very good flute. Very good sound."

the existing restrictions were in force, but the quality of their strokeplay was still breathtaking.

The openers apart, only an artful partnership between Saif Malik and Javed Miandad suggested that the target was still within Pakistan's compass. For all Javed's goading and beckoning, his magic has waned.

Indian security during this World Cup seems to have owed as much to the mood of the local police than the tensions inherent in a particular match.

Table with cricket scores and statistics for various teams and players.

Weekend results

Table listing various sports events and results from the weekend, including soccer, rugby, and tennis.

Table listing results for the Scottish Cup, including various regional and national competitions.

Table listing results for the English FA Cup and other domestic league matches.

Table listing results for the Welsh and Irish domestic leagues, as well as international fixtures.

Table listing results for the English Premier League and other top-tier football matches.

Table listing results for the English Football League and other domestic football matches.

Football

WELSH WOMEN'S CUP: Quarter-finals. Llandudno 3 Cardiff 0. Cardiff 2 Bala Town 0. Bala Town 2 Trehafod 0.

Basketball

Samuels in luck for the Bucks

KURT SAMUELS has had a bit of extra shooting practice in the past week. It may have helped him on Saturday night when he stole a win for the Derby Bucks with a basket hurled in from the half-way line.

Table listing basketball scores and statistics for various leagues and teams.

Hockey

Table listing results for the English Ice Hockey Super League and other matches.

Cricket

Table listing results for the English Women's Cricket Championship and other matches.

